

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 /073 W

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R 261300Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5264

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: NSP NATIONAL CONGRESS

REF: ANKARA 8055

1. AT THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY'S (NSP) WELL-ORGANIZED, WELL-ATTENDED THIRD NATIONAL CONGRESS OCTOBER 24, CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN'S LEADERSHIP WAS OVERWHELMINGLY RE-ENDORSED, HWILE THE FEW DISSIDENT MEMBERS OF THE NSP EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE NOT RPT NOT RE-ELECTED. AN EARLY PRESS COMMENTARY (WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO VERIFY YET) WAS THAT THE NEW BOARD REFLECTS THE DOMINANCE OF THE PARTY'S TECHNOCRAT WING OVER THE VARIOUS AND COMPETING FACTIONS BASED ON RELIGIOUS SECTS.

2. ERBAKAN EMPHASIZED TRADITIONAL NSP THEMES IN HIS CONVENTION ADDRESS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING NSP-DIRECTED INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS. HE CRITICIZED BOTH THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND HIS COALITION PARTNER, THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP), FOR HAVING IMPORTED NON-TURKISH

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POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES. CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH THE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, ERBAKAN CHARGED THAT THE EC WANTED TO MAKE TURKEY A PROVINCE OF THE COMMUNITY. "LET THEM BE ONE OF OUR PROVINCES," HE DECLARED.

3. THE CONVENTION ITSELF DAMAGED A POPULAR STEREOTYPE ABOUT THE NSP, WHICH IS THAT THE PARTY'S SUPPORTERS FIT THE MOLD OF THE BEARDED, TRADITIONALLY DRESSED, ELDERLY, DEVOUT MOSLE.. WHILE DELEGATES DID INCLUDE MANY BEARDED, OLDER PEOPLE (AND THE CONVENTION HAD EVEN A SEPARATE HAREM SECTION FOR CONSERVATIVELY CLOTHED WOMEN), THE PREDOMINANT IMPRESSION WAS OF MEN WITH A WESTERNIZED, MIDDLE-CLASS APPEARANCE AND A HIGH PROPORTION OF DELEGATES WERE YOUTHS IN THE 18-25 AGE BRACKET. WE ALSO NOTED THAT CONVENTION APPOINTMENTS AND FURNISHINGS WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE ELABORATE THAN AT THE NSP'S LAST CONVENTION IN 1974, SUGGESTING THE PARTY'S TENURE IN POWER MAY HAVE INCREASED ITS WEALTH.

4. COMMENT: ERBAKAN PROMISED THE DELEGATES THAT THE NSP WOULD COME TO POWER ALONE IN 1981, I.E. IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION AFTER THAT OF 1977. WHILE WE SEE NO BASIS FOR SUCH A DEGREE OF OPTIMISM, THE NSP CLEARLY IS A VIGOROUS, COHERENT ORGANIZATION WITH NO SIGNS OF DECAY, AND PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SERIOUS CONTENDER FOR THE CONSERVATIVE VOTE.

5. WE WILL REPORT BY AIRGRAM THE NAMES OF THE NEW NSP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS.  
MACOMBER

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## Message Attributes

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